

MR. TAFT REVIEWS FOREIGN RELATIONS

President, in Message to Congress, Presents a
Notable Record of Diplomatic Achievements.

ARBITRATION MADE GAINS

Senate Urged to Ratify Pending Treaties—Policy in Mexican Revolution Justified by Events—Negotiations with Russia on Passport Question Proceeding in St. Petersburg.

Washington, Dec. 7.—The full text of President Taft's message on foreign relations sent to Congress to-day follows:

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

The relations of the United States with other countries have continued during the past twelve months upon a basis of the usual good will and friendly intercourse.

Arbitration Made Great Advances.

The year just passed marks an important general movement on the part of the powers for broader and more ample recognition of the manifold benefits to mankind in the extension of the policy of arbitration rather than by war, and its response to a demand of the United States that direction of the part of the people of the United States and of Great Britain and of France, new arbitration treaties were negotiated last spring with Spain and France, the terms of which were designed, as expressed in the preamble of these treaties, to extend the scope and obligation of the policy of arbitration adopted in our previous negotiations with those governments. To pave the way for this treaty with the United States Great Britain negotiated an important modification in its alliance with Japan, and President Taft had extended the negotiations with Spain good will. The new treaties have been submitted to the Senate and are awaiting its advice and consent to their ratification. Senator Madero was formally declared elected on October 15, President Diaz resigned. On May 1, President Madero entered upon the office. He was chosen provisional President. Elections for President and Vice-President were then held, and Senator Francisco I. Madero was formally declared elected on November 8. President Madero entered upon the office.

Since the inauguration of President Madero a plot has been unearthed against the present government, to begin a new insurrection. Pursuing his policy of moderation and conciliation, he has called an election, and that of the 10th of December, no one in Washington that General Alvaro Obregon could probably meet all the demands of the present administration if the troops continue in Texas for three months. I sincerely hope this is so. I observe from the newspapers that you are in agreement with me that this is an error, or that it will be easy to procure them for use as soon as your maneuvers begin.

Second—Texas is a state ordinarily peaceful, but you cannot put 20,000 troops into it without running some risk of a collision between the people of the state, and especially of Mexico and the United States, and the border and who sympathize with the insurgents, and the federal soldiers. For that reason I beg you to be as careful as you can to avoid friction, and to keep the public mind in Cuba with the arms of pacification there of something like 5,000 troops, to maintain them for a year without trouble, and to give you an opportunity to make peace.

Please give your attention to this, and advise all the officers in command of the necessity for very great circumspection in this regard.

Third—One of the greatest troubles in the concentration of troops is the danger of disease, and I suppose that you have adopted the most modern methods for the prevention of such diseases, for example, of epidemic. That is so much a part of a campaign that it is hardly necessary for me to call attention to this.

Finally, I wish you to excuse me for being so particular, but the American government has been asked to intercede in the negotiations between the parties. In January, 1910, at the request of both governments, the agents representing them met in conference at the Department of State, and the negotiations were continued, submitting this long pending controversy to the arbitral judgment of the Chief Justice of the United States, who consented to act in the capacity of a mediator, according to the international arbitration law.

Our arbitration of the Chamizal boundary question with Mexico was unfortunately abortive, but with the earnest efforts of both governments, which its importance made it, it is felt that an early practical adjustment should prove possible.

During the past year the republic of Venezuela celebrated the 10th anniversary of its independence. The United States sent in honor of this event, a special embassy to Caracas, where their cordial relation and generous hospitality showed it was most gratifying as a further proof of the good relations and friendship existing between that country and the United States.

The Revolution in Mexico.

The recent political events in Mexico received attention from this government because of the exceeding delicacy and difficulty of maintaining a friendly and southern border and the necessity for taking measures properly to safeguard American interests. The government of the United States, in its desire to see a just and permanent enforcement of the so-called neutrality statutes of the federal government, issued directions to the appropriate officers to exercise diligent and vigorous supervision over the movements of both national and foreign troops.

Although a condition of actual armed conflict existed, there was no official recognition of belligerency involving the technical neutrality obligation of international law.

On the 6th of March last, in the absence of the Secretary of State, I had a personal interview with Mr. Wilson, the Ambassador of the United States to Mexico, in which he reported to me that the conditions in Mexico were much more critical than the press dispatches disclosed; that President Diaz was on a volcano of popular uprising, and that the movement which had occurred was only symptomatic of the whole condition; that a very large percentage of the people were sympathetic with the insurrection, that a general cyclone was apprehended, and that while we feared that the 40,000 or more American residents in Mexico might be assailed, and that the very large American investments might be lost.

At a conference with the Secretary of War, and the Secretary of the Navy, I thought it wise to assemble an army division of full strength at San Antonio, Texas, a brigade of cavalry, and a company of engineers, and a battery of field artillery, to be ready to cross the border and to prevent the entry of the insurgents into the interior of the country.

The continuing gravity of the situation here and the chaos that would ensue if the conditions of civil strife were to be repeated, and the possibility of a general outbreak of civil strife, has produced an acute sense of alarm among the citizens of both countries.

You may have a copy of this letter made and left with General Carter and such other generals in command as you may designate, and necessary to guide them in their course, but to be regarded as confidential."

Conduct of Army Exemplary.

I am more than happy to here record the fact that all apprehensions as to the effect of the presence of so large a military force in Texas proved groundless, and that the conduct of our troops was exemplary and the public reception and treatment of them was all that could be best desired, and that the number of Mexican refugees in the border territory.

From time to time communications were received from Ambassador Wilson, who had returned to Mexico, confirming the view that the massing of American troops in the neighborhood had had good effect. By dispatch of April 3, 1911, the ambassador said:

"The continuing gravity of the situation here and the chaos that would ensue if the conditions of civil strife were to be repeated, and the possibility of a general outbreak of civil strife, has produced an acute sense of alarm among the citizens of both countries.

"I am bound to say to the department that our military dispositions on the frontier have produced an acute sense of alarm among the citizens of both countries.

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